

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards is the invention.

In particular, the Examiner has objected to the feature "...informs the client of the address..." in step (d), on the basis that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this feature in the claim. Further, the Examiner has questioned the meaning of "request itself" in the expression "sending a redirect message to the client which informs the client of the address to which to request itself..." in step (d).

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-6, 8-20 and 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeomans et al. (UK Patent Application No. GB 2330991A). hereafter "Yeomans," and in view of Bhagavath et al. (US Patent No. 6,163,810), hereafter "Bhagavath."

Applicants have submitted a revised claim set, including a new claim 27, corresponding to claim 1 (now cancelled), which overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In particular, claim 1 has been amended as set forth in new claim 27, to include the feature: "the first proxy server redirecting the client to an access point for the path, where the access point is selected from the group comprising a port on the first proxy server and the application associated with the device directly accessible by the client".

In Yeomans, the problem seems to be the need to avoid imbuing the client with knowledge, even at a low level, of the configuration of the network to which it is attached. This may be seen at page 2, columns 6-14, which makes clear that it is desirable, and that Yeomans is directed to making the physical topology completely transparent to the user, even at a low level. This is accomplished by the client sending

the packet to intended address, blithely unaware that the router will intercept the packet, readdress it, in conjunction with information obtained by the proxy server, and send the packet potentially in an entirely different direction.

By contrast, Bhagavath requires the user, in this case the unicast host 302 to maintain substantial information with regard to the physical topology of the network to which it is attached. In particular, it must know not only the request server 301, but also the physical addresses of each of the multicast-unicast gateways a-d (304-306) so that when it receives a redirect message identifier from the request server, it knows to which address the second multicast session request need be transmitted.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the redirection message activity taught by Bhagavath with the send and forget data re-routing mechanism disclosed in Yeomans. Indeed, as stated above, Yeomans expressly teaches away from such a combination.

With the claim set amended as submitted herewith, the differentiation between the claimed invention and the cited prior art reference is made even more pronounced.

With regard to Yeomans, no request to access an application is forwarded to a proxy server. Rather, the access communication itself is forwarded and automatically routed to the proxy server. Moreover, as the Examiner has acknowledged, the proxy server does no redirection of the client to an access point for the path. Yeomans does not disclose an access point which is either a port on the first proxy server or the application associated with a device directly accessible by the client itself. Rather, in the Yeomans apparatus, communications are directed to the intended receiver and are intercepted by the router and/or the proxy server.

With regard to Bhagavath, the unicast host 302 must be seen as the client, and the request server 301 must be seen as the proxy server. The application, however resides on the multicast host 300 device, and not on any of the multicast-unicast gateways 304-

306. Thus, even in a most benevolent interpretation, there is no teaching in Bhagavath that the first proxy server redirects the client to an access point which maybe the application, associated with the device and directly accessible by the client. Rather, the access point, if any, resides on an intermediate element, namely the multicast-unicast gateway, which is only indirectly connected to the application and the device (multicast host 300). Moreover, there is no teaching in Bhagavath that the request server 301 have a port thereon which can act as an access point for the client.

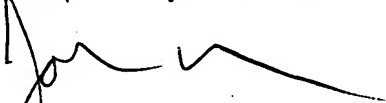
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 27 (and similarly claims 50 and 51) is patentably distinguished from either of the cited references, and that the Examiner's contention that a person of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine the cited references in order to arrive at the claimed invention is not justified.

With regard to the dependent claims 28-49, Applicant notes that each of these claims depends from a base claim 27, which Applicants submit is allowable. As such, the Examiner's rejection with regard to these claims is respectfully traversed.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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